

# WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

November 13, 2012

In Attendance:

Matthew Aslesen, DOT Bureau Of Transportation Safety  
Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative  
Police Specialist Steven Kraus; City of Waukesha Police Department Representative  
Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department Representative  
Lieutenant Paul Renkas; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator  
Kathleen Roe; Education Representative  
Sergeant Steve Rudie; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative  
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department  
Captain Charles Wood; Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas at 2:00 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Captain Charles Wood, from the Waukesha Sheriff's Department, made a motion to approve the minutes; and, Sergeant Steve Rudie, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas welcomed two new members to the Traffic Safety Commission. Matthew Aslesen is now representing the Department Of Transportation - Bureau Of Transportation Safety. Kathleen Roe is now representing Education, and is a Driver's Education teacher with Mukwonago High School.

## NEW IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Traffic Safety Commission Meetings are mandated by statute to be held quarterly to review traffic crash data from the county, to share information from citizen comments/complaints regarding traffic safety, and other traffic safety related information. Mitzi Dobersek and Stacey Pierce, from the Wisconsin Department Of Transportation, and also Michael Grulke, Traffic Engineer from Waukesha County, met together on 11-12-12 for the purpose of coming up with some new ideas on how to improve the Traffic Safety Commission Meetings.

The following items were brought up for discussion:

Walworth County was given as an example of having a strong Traffic Safety Commission. Perhaps several members could take a trip to Walworth County to observe their next meeting.













Possibly invite the media, guest speakers, or tow operators; send out press releases; or notify the local papers of upcoming meetings. Kathleen Roe stated she will be compiling a list of media outlets in Waukesha County and will be contacting Driver's Ed teachers.

**NEW IDEAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS CONTINUED**

The question was brought up as to what purpose the Traffic Safety Commission has. The group should be sharing information on safety, reviewing fatal accidents, etc. It was suggested to encourage more people to come and to make the meetings more productive and interesting. Possibly the Waukesha County website could post the agenda.

Some topic ideas for 2013 meetings could include: Traffic surveys – Crash and Speed; Construction season; Buses and pedestrians; Grants; Legislative voice; and Public Service Announcements.

Each quarterly meeting could have a new theme. The following were given as examples for themes:

|   |                                   |   |                     |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Traffic surveys – Crash and Speed |  | High Speed          |
|  | Legislative Voice                 |  | Grants              |
|  | Public Service Announcements      |  | Engineering         |
|  | Construction for Summer           |  | Wrong Way Driving   |
|  | Inclement Driving Conditions      |  | Traffic Enforcement |
|  | Zero in Wisconsin                 |  | Fatals              |

**TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT**

Matthew Aslesen, from the DOT Bureau Of Transportation Safety, had several handouts including: Weekly Fatality Report, Fatalities by County, Year-to-Date Traffic Deaths and Fatal Crashes, Statewide Adult Arrests for OWI by County, Statewide Juvenile Arrests for OWI by County, State Patrol Laws of the Month, and Winter Driving Tips. He stated fatalities were above the five-year average across the state.

Aslesen stated a new law prohibits anyone operating a motor vehicle under an instruction permit or a probationary license from using a cell phone or other wireless communications device, except to report an emergency. This new law will deter teenagers and other inexperienced drivers from talking on their phones while driving, which can be a dangerous distraction.

The 2013 grants will be starting soon. Sergeant Steve Rudie, from the Menomonee Falls Police Department asked reference any grants were approved for 2013 for Menomonee Falls. Matthew Aslesen stated he would check into it.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS**

- ❖ **Village of Mukwonago Police Department**  
Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, of the Village of Mukwonago Police Department, stated the Department Of Transportation will be reconstructing and resurfacing Highway 83. He would encourage a round-about at Highway 83 and Wolf Run to reduce crashes.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS CONTINUED****❖ City of Brookfield Police Department**

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, of the City of Brookfield Police Department, stated the re-organization steering committee for the southeastern Wisconsin Task Force will be contacting agencies to coordinate efforts and target specific dates.

Also, Sergeant Mark Tushaus asked Mitzi Dobersek, from the Wisconsin Department Of Transportation, if the construction barrels from the Highway 18 project could be picked up. Mitzi Dobersek stated she would look into it.

**❖ Medical Examiner's Office**

Representatives from the Medical Examiner's Office were not able to attend, however, provided the 2012 list of traffic fatalities to be handed out at the meeting.

**HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS**

- ➡ Sergeant Mark Tushaus reported that the City of Brookfield Police Department, had one fatal accident, as follows.

● Date of Accident: 05-29-12

Location: North Avenue, 400 feet east of Hollyhock Lane

A fatal two-vehicle crash involving a Buick Regal that was traveling west on North Avenue, crossed the center line and collided head-on with a Dodge Caravan heading east. The driver of the Buick Regal, a 30-year-old male, was taken to Froedtert Memorial Hospital by Flight For Life. The 69-year-old female driver of the Dodge Caravan was extradited, also taken to Froedtert Memorial Hospital, and died from multiple injuries. This accident occurred in May, and results are still pending.

- ➡ Chairman Lieutenant Paul Renkas reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had four fatalities, as follows:

● Date of Accident: 08-30-12

Location: Highway 164, 735 feet north of Dreamcatcher Way

A 54-year-old male operator of a Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling southbound on Highway 164 when he left the roadway and struck the median curb. He lost control of the motorcycle, was ejected, and traveled 220 feet from where the motorcycle struck the curb. The operator was not wearing a helmet. Alcohol may have been a contributing factor to the accident. The operator was pronounced deceased on the scene.

● Date of Accident: 10-24-12

Location: Highway 83, 110 feet south of Boy's School Road

A Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling southbound on Highway 83, south of Boy's School Road, and was struck when a black Ford F150 pick-up truck turned in front of them that was turning to go in his driveway. The operator of the Ford F150 did not see the motorcycle approaching. The un-helmeted 49-year-old male operator of the motorcycle was pronounced deceased, and his female passenger was taken to Froedtert Hospital by Flight For Life.

**HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS CONTINUED**

- Date of Accident: 10-30-12

Location: STH 59, .50 mile west of Hillside Road

A three-vehicle accident where a 1997 Pontiac GrandAm was westbound on STH 59 when he attempted to make a left-hand turn into his place of employment. A 2004 GMC Envoy was also westbound when it struck the Pontiac in the rear. The Pontiac slid off onto the north shoulder. The GMC crossed over the center line into the eastbound lane of STH 59 where it was struck by a Lincoln Town Car. The GMC continued into the south side of the ditch. The Lincoln crossed over the westbound lane and came to rest on the north shoulder. The driver of the Pontiac was taken to Froedtert Hospital where he passed away the following day, 10-31-12.

- Date of Accident: 11-12-12

Location: Artesian Avenue, 500 feet west of Robert Way

A 2001 Saturn was traveling eastbound on Artesian Avenue, west of Robert Way. After cresting a hill at a high rate of speed, it lost control, veered to the right, then veered to the left where it crossed into the westbound lane of traffic. It began to rotate counter-clockwise, and the passenger side of the vehicle struck a tree. It then struck a utility pole just east of the tree, continued to rotate counter-clockwise, and came to rest in the middle of the roadway. The driver was partially ejected and sustained a severe open skull fracture. The operator, a 20-year-old female, was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol was a factor in the accident.

**NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED**

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department, with the topic for the meeting being "Participation and Media". Dates of future 2013 meetings are: May 14, 2013, August 13, 2013, and November 12, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Sergeant Steve Rudie, from the Village of Menomonee Falls Police Department, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Lieutenant Kenneth Pileggi, from the Village of Mukwonago Police Department. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich  
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 02-12-13)